



City of Annapolis

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Annapolis Environmental Commission

May 1, 2013

The Annapolis Environmental Commission (AEC) held its regular meeting on May 1, 2013 at 145 Gorman Street, Conference Room 3. **Chair** Weber called the meeting to order at 7:06p.m.

Present: Chair Weber, **Co-Vice Chair** Dr. Riegel, **Co-Vice Chair** Kissel, O'Leary, Butler

Absent: Pogell, Zolper

Staff: Beard-Board Liaison

Guest: R. Sullivan, S. Weber, S. Kiraly, D. Van den Heuvel

II. April 3, 2013 Meeting Minutes

The AEC deferred the voting on the April 3, 2013 meeting minutes to its June 5, 2013 meeting to allow for further edits.

III. REGULAR BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMISSION

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Development Review

Crystal Springs

Chair Weber explained that Dr. Patrick intended to discuss the Crystal Springs wetlands hydrology but is unable to attend the meeting so the discussion was tabled. Ms. Butler added that it was believed that the developer was going to file by month's end but this has not happened to date. Mr. Sullivan added that the Building Board of Appeals appealed the forest stand delineation meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2013 at 1:30pm in Council Chambers.

Reserve at Quiet Waters

Ms. Butler noted that the Building Board of Appeals rendered its opinion on the project's Forest Conservation Plan. The decision was discussed in the newsletter: The Building Board of Appeals had no choice but to dismiss because the Forest Conservation Plan had never been "approved" by the Department of Neighborhood and Environmental Programs (DNEP). Instead, DNEP's April 12, 2012 letter to the developer was merely a recommendation and not a final determination. Accordingly, the Building Board of Appeals has no authority to hear the matter. The attorneys for the Hunt Meadow appellants and others argued that the case should be stayed pending the final determination from DNEP and/or Planning & Zoning, at which time appellants would receive notification of the final determination of the Forest Conservation Plan. Without such stay, there will be no notification to the individuals who have an interest in being heard on either the Forest Stand delineation or the Forest Conservation Plan.

Summary

Chair Weber noted that Mr. Biba provided written summaries of the properties currently under Forest Conservation Act compliance review. Ms. Beard noted that Mr. Biba's summary handouts are the summaries of what has been submitted to the Department and the website shows the actual submittals of the items included in the summaries. Ms. Butler commented that the AEC did not have an opportunity to submit comments on the Mills Parole project.

2. Recycling

Mr. O'Leary had nothing new to report.

3. Outreach

Chair Weber referred to his email regarding the suggested newsletter deadlines. The proposed deadline for the deployment of the newsletter would be May 31, 2013; final deadline for edits would be May 30th; semi-final draft is May 29; cutoff date for content submission would be May 28th; and the first draft to be sent to AEC for review on May 24th; and the call for content would be May 13.

Co-Vice Chair Riegel moved approval of the proposed newsletter deadlines noted above. Mr. O'Leary seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote of 5-0. **Chair** Weber encouraged members to rigorously review and edit newsletter content as needed.

4. Water Quality/Stormwater

Co-Vice Chair Kissel had nothing new to report but asked that Claudia Donegan include him on the water quality mailing list. **Co-Vice Chair** Riegel reported that there has been no progress on the "No Discharge Zone" application. Ms. Beard was asked to provide a copy of the application for AEC to review. **Co-Chair Kissel** attended the presentation on the Mayo water treatment and the intent is to discharge the sewage into the Annapolis plant. He agreed to provide a write up and a link to the Capital write up on this.

B. DNEP Report

Ms. Beard noted that the report for the sustainability update on the Community Action Plan is not available and Ms. Broadbent agreed to provide a copy once it is completed. **Chair** Weber asked if Ms. Beard could tell the AEC where the City was in relation to its sustainability (e.g., reducing carbon emissions) and tree canopy goals. Ms. Beard did not know the status but agreed to check with Ms. Broadbent. Ms. Beard announced that Ms. Pompa is currently working for the Annapolis Economic Development Corporation (AEDC). **Chair** Weber asked that Ms. Broadbent keep the AEC aware of any new projects that are in the pipeline.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Current and Potential Legislation for Environmental Matters Commission (EMC)

Chair Weber provided background on this agenda item explaining that the AEC along with DNEP was invited to appear before the EMC to give updates on environmental issues as well as comment on environmental legislation. Ms. Butler asked about the status of the fee in lieu ordinance, #O-15-13 that was introduced on March 8, 2013. She noted that the Economic Matters Commission voted on and approved the ordinance. Ms. Beard will be meeting with Ms. Broadbent for a status and will provide it via email. Ms. Butler noted that there are also new Planning Commission rules that the AEC should review. Mr. O'Leary agreed to peruse the EMC agenda for environmental legislation.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Sustainable Annapolis Community Action Plan Goals

This agenda item was discussed on DNEP Report.

B. Tree Canopy Goals

Chair Weber asked about the status of the tree canopy goals. Ms. Beard responded that there is no software to provide regular status updates but some of the grant funding was used to do a flyover for

satellite imagery at that time. Ms. Butler briefly discussed the landserver.org website where the actual value of the forest is calculated to the jurisdiction that is trying to value it.

C. **Annapolis Divesture Campaign**

Mr. Van den Huevel referred the AEC to an article in the April 2013 Bay Journal titled "Development Likely Culprit in Degradation of Fish Habitat." He discussed the carbon dioxide report that shows that if all the oil in the oil companies is developed it will increase global warming. The intent is to prevent oil/coal companies from removing the oils from the ground. He explained that the Annapolis Divesture campaign is lead by the Sierra Club along with several other groups in effort to get the City to divest from the stock of oil companies or any company that produces fossil fuel. The ultimate goal is to get these companies to invest in an alternate fuel source.

Chair Weber began a discussion of things the City can do, consistent with the Sustainable Annapolis Community Action Plan, to reduce its carbon emissions. He asked if the City has explored the option of switching to a cleaner provider of energy than BGE, which is mostly coal (43% in 2011) and nuclear (33%), with only 7.5% renewable. Companies like Clean Currents and Washington Gas Energy Services offer 100% wind power. Ms. Beard responded that there is no thought of switching out BGE as the City's current provider but rather if there are cheaper renewable energy source options than the rates that the City is currently paying for; then switching to a renewable source like wind **would** be considered. The AEC asked Ms. Beard to provide a copy of the spreadsheet of BGE costs prepared by the intern and to ask Ms. Broadbent if Mr. Savidge, the author of the Community Action Plan, could attend an AEC meeting to discuss the 2012 sustainability report.

Other

Mr. O'Leary asked if there are laws against spraying pesticides and the AEC agreed that this is an issue that could be raised at an EMC meeting. Ms. Beard does not believe there are any codes in Annapolis against spraying pesticides. Ms. Weber explained that a special applicator's license from the Department of Agriculture is required in order to spray on someone else's property other than your own.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

The next AEC meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2013 at 7:00pm at 145 Gorman Street. With there being no further business, Mr. O'Leary moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm. Ms. Butler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote of 5-0.

Tami Hook, Recorder